crore for development of coir industry in Kerala during 2004-05. The item-wise details of this proposal are given below:—

Sl. No.	Item	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Market Development Assistance for 2004-05	400
2.	Modernisation and Technical Upgradation of Coir Societies	644
3.	Revival of Spinning Coir Co-operative Societies	135
4.	Pith Processing	210
5.	One-time assistance for De-fibering Units	75
6.	Mahila Coir Yojana	300
	TOTAL:	1764

(c) In his Budget Speech 2004-05, the Finance Minister has announced the establishment of a Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries of the Central Government has been assigned the nodal role in firming up the modalities of operationalising this Fund. The above-mentioned proposal of the Government of Kerala has been kept in view, subject to further examination, alongwith similar proposals of all Union Ministries/ Departments and State Governments concerned.

National Commission on Enterprises

831. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported in the Press that Government have consented upon the constitution of the National Commission on Enterprises in the unorganized/informal sector; and

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) in what manner it would improve productivity in the informal sector; and

(d) in what way it would generate employment and solve the unemployment problem?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Under its Resolution No. 5(2)/2004-ICC dated 20 September 2004, the Government has set up the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised/Informal Sector.

(b) The aims and objectives of the Commission, as specified in its terms of reference under this Resolution, include:

(i) Review of the status of unorganized/informal sector in India, including the nature of enterprises, their size, spread and scope, and magnitude of employment.

(ii) Identifying the constraints faced by small enterprises with regard to freedom of carrying out the enterprise, access to raw materials, finance, skills, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure, technology and markets and suggesting measures to provide institutional support and linkages to facilitate easy access to them.

(iii) Suggesting the legal and policy environment that should govern the informal/unorganized sector for growth, employment, exports and promotion.

(iv) Examining the range of existing programmes that relate to employment generation in the informal/unorganized sector and suggesting improvement for their redesign.

(v) Identifying innovative legal and financing instruments to promote the growth of the informal sector.

(vi) Review of the existing arrangements for estimating employment and unemployment in the informal sector, and examining why the rate of growth in employment has stagnated in the 1990s.

(vii) Suggesting elements of an employment strategy focusing on the informal sector.

(viii) Review of Indian labour laws, consistent with labour rights, and with the requirements of expanding growth of industry and services, particularly in the informal sector, and improving productivity and competitiveness.

(ix) Review of the social security system available for labour in the informal sector, and making recommendations for expanding their coverage.

(c) and (d) The terms of reference of the Commission noted above clarify that measures for (i) improvement in productivity of and (ii) accelerating generation of employment in the informal sector constitute important components of the recommendations that the Commission has been mandated to make in its report(s).

Incentives for SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

832. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India and the Small Scale Industries Corporation have played any part in giving incentives to small scale industries in Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of the type of industries revived or newly set up by small scale entrepreneurs in Rajasthan and Punjab; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) provide assistance for development, promotion and strengthening of all types of small scale industries on all-India basis, including those in Rajasthan and Punjab, through financial, marketing and technology upgradation schemes. The specific schemes of the SIDBI for Rajasthan and Punjab consist of assistance under Cluster Development Programme, Technology Upgradation Programme, Small Industries Management Programme, Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Awareness Programme, etc. The SIDBI has also taken various initiatives under Micro Credit Scheme Rural Industries Programme and Mahila Vikas Nidhi in the State of Rajasthan. The NSIC's support activities in Rajasthan and Punjab consist of equipment financing, raw material assistance, Government